

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

February 23, 2015

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chairman
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Warrants: Warrants Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Russell Freedman came before the Board regarding the proposed March 2015 Kinder Morgan presentation. Mr. Freedman urged the Board to invite local environmental representatives to attend the meeting to give residents additional information. Robert Barton, on behalf of the 250th Anniversary Committee, presented the Board with a list of 250th Anniversary signs with locations. Mr. Barton asked if he could let the Building Inspector know that the Board approved the list. Mr. Sieloff will place on a future Agenda for the Board to vote.[#1]

Permit(s), Contract(s), Use of Town Property and Appointment(s)

Use of Town Hall - Lorraine Tinger, Yoga Instructor

Lorraine Tinger came before the Board to request that the fee of \$25 per hour for the use of the Community Room for her yoga class be reduced to \$15. Ms. Tinger has been teaching yoga classes at the Town Hall for nearly 10 years. Mr. Sayers said the price was set and with heating issues the Town was not able to adjust the price. Mr. Ericson would like to reduce the price to \$20 due to the fact that the classes are offered during business hours. Motion 15-18. Motion made by Henry Sayers to impose the \$25 fee as set by the Board. Robert Ericson opposed, John Goerlach opposed. Motion not carried. Motion 15-19. Motion made by Robert Ericson to decrease the fee for the use of the Community Room for yoga classes to \$20, seconded by John Goerlach. Henry Sayers opposed. Motion carried 2-0. [#2]

Tree and Forest Committee appointments – Katharine Westwood and Nicholas DeCandia

Motion 15-20. Motion made by Henry Sayers to appoint Katharine Westwood and Nicholas DeCandia to the Tree and Forest Committee, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#3]

Representative Gailanne Cariddi

The Board welcomed Representative Cariddi to the meeting. Representative Cariddi asked the Board what they would like her to prioritize. Mr. Ericson informed Representative Cariddi about the grant the Energy Committee received from the State. Mr. Ericson stated that he would like to see this program continued. Mr. Goerlach asked about infrastructure. Representative Cariddi stated that there is a meeting on Thursday with legislators to discuss transportation issues and she is going to push to get more funding. Mr. Sayers asked about roadways. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Board would like an increase in Chapter 90 money because of the conditions of the Town's roadways. Representative Cariddi stated that she was glad to see the new Governor released the extra Chapter 90 money. Mr. Sieloff talked about health insurance rates for municipalities and how costly it is and asked what kind of relief local governments could receive. Mr. Goerlach spoke about school costs. Representative Cariddi stated that if she finds any solutions she will certainly pass it along to the Town. Mr. Goerlach asked if there was any aid for a town sewer system. Representative Cariddi stated that she would like to see that happen and that there is bonding availability and a bill was passed last year. She will get that information for the Board. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. Sieloff to follow up on this. Mr. Sieloff stated that a program should be created regarding school regionalization incentives and that the school budgets having large impacts on the Town's budget. Representative Cariddi stated that she would like to talk to Mr. Sieloff about these issues. Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to see some type of improvement regarding school choice as the policy hasn't been changed in decades. Mr. Sieloff stated he would be in contact with Representative Cariddi to discuss these topics.

Kinder Morgan Presentation on March 10th, 17th or 24th (tentative)

Mr. Sieloff stated that he did not have a date and will place the matter on the next Agenda.

Sidewalk Snow Removal Bylaw

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a draft bylaw for their review relative to the removal of snow/ice by residents from Town sidewalks. Mr. Ericson presented the Board with his revisions. Mr. Goerlach would like to review ordinances from other towns before he makes a decision. The matter will be placed on next Agenda for the Board's decision. [#4]

Proposed Recreation Committee Bylaws

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with draft Bylaws for the Recreation Committee. Mr. Sieloff pointed out the language added regarding the Secretary of the committee maintaining and filing meeting Minutes with the Town Clerk. Motion 15-21. Motion made by Henry Sayers to adopt the Bylaws of the Recreation Committee, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#5]

Waterline Project Inter-Municipal Agreement and Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Sieloff stated that the agreement should be available by the next meeting and that the Water District and the Public Works Director are all on board with the project.

Proposed Pontoosuc Roads Grant from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Sieloff wanted to advise the Board that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission are leading the way to submit a grant and wanted the Board's input as to how they wish to proceed. Mr. Sieloff stated that he hopes to have additional information to present to the Board at the next meeting and will place it on the Agenda. Mr. Goerlach asked about the status of the three streets that had been submitted to the State. Mr. Sieloff said he will contact the DPW Director.

Proposed Request to Elementary School Committee relating to School Committee Budget and discussion of School Options Report. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board to consider making a formal motion to ask the Lanesborough Elementary School Committee to reduce their budget by at least \$100,000 because of the shrinking school population, the Town's other needs, and due to the large Mount Greylock School budget request. Mr. Sieloff asked Regina DiLego what she would like the Board to do. Ms. DiLego stated it would be good if the Board would let the Committee know what their budget goals were. Mr. Ericson asked if the Town received a copy of the budget from the Lanesborough Elementary School. Ms. DiLego said no. Mr. Sayers did not want to set a definitive amount for the Elementary School Committee to reduce their budget by. Mr. Ericson stated that he would like to sit down with the Elementary School Committee to go over energy usage which will help with their budget savings. Mr. Sieloff stated that on March 16th the Board will meet with the Mount Greylock School Committee to go over their budget. Motion 15-22. Motion made by Robert Ericson to reduce the Elementary School budget at least \$100,000, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. DiLego about residency issues. Ms. DiLego stated that the Principal has a policy and they will discuss this matter at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Canning came before the Board on behalf of the Regional School Research Committee. Ms. Canning and Ms. Dilego presented the Board with additional information for their review which will help to clarify the proposal originally submitted. Ms. Canning discussed the different options and gave her suggestions to the Board. A survey was suggested for completion by residents in order to get feedback. Ms. Canning presented the Board with a list of why the Town and committees don't work well together to give the Board a clearer view of what needs to be done to accomplish one goal that is in the best interest of the students and the Town. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if the Mount Greylock School Committee requested a warrant regarding regionalization. Mr. Sieloff stated they did not. Ms. Dilego stated that the regionalization vote is very important before things can proceed. Mr. Tinkham presented an email from a representative from Town of Williamstown and would like a meeting to take place with them and the Board. Mr. Goerlach stated that the survey would be good to get information. Ms. Canning would like the Board to approve \$300 to proceed with the survey. Mr. Barton stated there was money appropriated for a survey. Motion 15-23. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the appropriation of \$300, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like have Mr. Sieloff to send letters to the Select Boards of the Towns of Hancock, New Ashford, Williamstown and choose a couple of students from each town to form a committee to investigate the "elephants in the room." Motion 15-24. Motion made by Robert Ericson to contact the

Boards of Selectmen of the towns of Williamstown, Hancock and New Ashford to set up a working group meeting to discuss the initial responses to what the school system of the future might look like in this area and after initial contact the Board goes from there to either setting up a working committee that would review what's been established to date in terms of documentation or to establish a larger working group, if necessary, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#6]

Berkshire Engineering Waterline Proposal

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with an engineering proposal from Berkshire Engineering relative to an extension of the drinking water system on Ore Bed Road. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Town is on schedule to begin work in May. Mr. Ericson stated that the hourly rate for additional work is reasonable. Motion 15-25. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the agreement with Berkshire Engineering for the waterline on Orebed Road, seconded by Robert Ericson. John Goerlach abstained from vote. Motion carried 2-0. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Ericson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. [#7]

FY16 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Sieloff told the Board he would like to wait to see if the grant is obtained for the new fire truck. If the grant is received then money could be used to purchase a new highway truck. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Town should receive word in next 2-4 weeks.

Budget Update & Proposed Schedule

Mr. Sieloff stated the he and the Town Accountant having been working on the general operating budget and they are going to have to ask for a 2.5% tax increase to offset the amount for the Mount Greylock School budget. Mr. Sieloff stated that he may have to ask the Board for an override. Mr. Sayers asked what an average cost per household would be with the increase Mount Greylock is asking for. Mr. Sieloff stated that an average of \$80 to \$200 on a \$200,000 home. Mr. Sieloff stated he would have exact number in the next couple of months. Mr. Ericson stated people are still reeling from the increase in electrical rates. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Town has never done a 2 ½ % override. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Town needs to give the residents a figure as to what their taxes will be over next couple of years. Mr. Sieloff stated that the heads of the departments will be coming to an upcoming meeting to present their budgets.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting. None.

Selectmen's Items. Mr. Ericson stated that the Energy Committee tested for insulation in the library walls.

Town Administrator Report.

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Water District project is moving forward. The Town has also talked to the Water District and Berkshire Springs and has had solicitations from engineering companies about looking into grants to have this line put in.

Approve Minutes. Approval of February 9, 2015 Minutes postponed until next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] 250th Anniversary Committee Sign Placement List
- [#2] Application of Lorraine Tinger for Permit to Use Town Owned Property
- [#3] Letter from Jim Neureuther, Chair (Tree and Forest Committee)
- [#4] Proposed Sidewalk and Snow Removal Bylaw
- [#5] Lanesborough Recreation Committee Bylaws
- [#6] Regional Option School Committee Information
- [#7] Berkshire Engineering Water Proposal